

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01929 011555Z

43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 TRSE-00

AID-05 /065 W

----- 057958

O R 011518Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6129

INFO AMBEMBASSY AMMAN 7946

AMEMBASSY BEIURT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, US,EG

SUBJ: SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS: ISRAELIS BEGIN TO TAKE
A SECOND LOOK

1. AS DEPARTMENT HAS NOTED FROM OUR MEDIA REACTION
AND OTHER REPORTING, ISRAELI COMMENTARIES IN FIRST TEN
DAYS AFTER SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT
IN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE GOI'S DECISIONS.

2. IN APRIL 1 PRESS, WE HAVE NOTED FIRST TWO COMMEN-
TARIES OF A MORE CRITICAL NATURE, INDICATING THAT ISRAELIS
THEMSELVES ARE BEGINNING TO TAKE A SECOND LOOK AT THE
NEGOTIATIONS AND TO ASK THEMSELVES WHETHER GOI'S DECISIONS
WERE EITHER NECESSARY OR CORRECT.

3. HAARETZ COMMENTATOR YOEL MARCUS'S ANALYSIS IS SUMMARIZED
AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH IN TODAY'S MEDIA REACTION CABLE
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 01929 011555Z

(TEL AVIV 1902, PARA 9). IN BRIEF, MARCUS SUGGESTS THAT

PRIME MINISTER RABIN VASCILLATED BETWEEN RIGID NEGOTIATING POSITION AND A MORE FLEXIBLE ONE (A MILITARY AGREEMENT WITH POLITICAL CONTENT), AND THAT AS EGYPTIANS MOVED TOWARD MEETING THE CONDITIONS OF THE LATTER, GOI REVERTED BACK TO ITS MORE "FORCEFUL OBJECTIVE". MARCUS INDICATES THAT IN PROCESS GOI FAILED TO ACHIEVE EITHER OF ITS OBJECTIVES - TO DEMONSTRATE THAT EGYPT WAS THE INTRANSIGENT PARTNER PREVENTING ACHIEVEMENT OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OR TO GAIN TIME. MARCUS CONCLUDES THAT GOI HAD FAILED TO DECIDE IN ADVANCE WHAT ITS REAL OBJECTIVES WERE. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT US-ISRAELI CONSULTATION MUST BE IMPROVED IF NEGOTIATIONS RESUME.

4. DAVAR CORRESPONDENT DANIEL BLOCH NOTES THAT SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATION CONSTITUTES MOST SERIOUS US-ISRAEL DISAGREEMENT IN LONG TIME. HE ASKS WHETHER GOI HAD FORESEEN THIS CONFRONTATION AND PARTICULARLY WHETHER IT HAD TO ERUPT OVER "SO COMPARATIVELY MARGINAL AN ISSUE AS THE PASSES AND ABU RODEIS RATHER THAN OVER SUCH VITAL QUESTIONS AS THE FINAL BORDERS, THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, SHARM EL-SHEIKH OR JERUSALEM?" BLOCH NOTES THAT A US-ISRAELI CONFRONTATION IS NOT THE SORT OF GAMBLE THAT ISRAEL CAN AFFORD TO TAKE WITH ITS VITAL AND POLITICAL INTERESTS, AND ASKS WHETHER THIS EVENTUALITY HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN ISRAEL WENT INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS. BLOCH ALSO NOTES US COMPLAINS THAT SECRETARY HAD BEEN GIVEN REASONS TO EXPECT ISRAELI FLEXIBILITY ON EXTERNAL FORMS OF ITS POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS FROM EARLIER TALKS WITH RABIN AND ALLON, AND THAT PERES HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN "SPOKE IN THE WHEEL". STATEMENT BY SENIOR ISRAELI MINISTERS IN MEDIA ALSO GAVE ISRAEL AN IMPORTANT IMAGE OF FLEXIBILITY, WHICH MAY HAVE LED US AND GOI TO THINK THAT ISRAEL'S OPENING POSITION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO GREATER MODIFICATION. IF THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, HE CONCLUDED, KISSINGER MIGHT NOT HAVE STARTED HIS SHUTTLE AT ALL. VELIOTES

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